Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for maintaining a persistent connection, the system comprising:

an electronic device including a network interface for communicating with another device via a network connection carried over <u>a</u> physical link that includes an equipment;

the equipment for terminating said network connection if said network connection remains idle for a <u>predetermined</u> ~~predefined~~ time-out criterion of said equipment;

wherein said electronic device is configured to send keep-alive signals on said network connection;

wherein said electronic device is configured to send said keep-alive signals according to a plurality of different time intervals to determine said <u>predetermined</u> ~~predefined~~ time-out criterion of said equipment;

wherein said electronic device determines said predetermined time-out criterion by:

loading an initial default time period into said electronic device;

sending at least one of said keep-alive signals to said another device at said initial default time period;

increasing said initial default time period if said initial default time period does not cause said network connection to be dropped by said equipment;

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repeating said sending step and increasing step until said increased initial default time period causes said network connection to be drop<u>ped</u>;

maintaining a last-known good time period when said increased initial default time period causes said network connection to be dropped, wherein said last-known good time period is less than and closest to said increased initial default time period that causes said network connection to be dropped;

reestablishing said network connection; and thereafter,

sending subsequent keep-alive signals to said <u>another</u> ~~second~~ electronic device at said last-known good time period.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said electronic device is further configured to determine when one of said time intervals results in said equipment terminating said connection thereby determining said predetermined time-out criterion of said equipment.

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein said electronic device is configured to request an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) webpage via said connection of said another device and said keep-alive signal is a no-op signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said equipment is a NAT (Network Address Translator) router.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said <u>predetermined time-out</u> criterion is a predetermined time period.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The svstem according to claim 1, wherein said electronic device is a client, said another device is a web-server and at least a portion of said link includes <u>the</u> Internet.

8. (Currently Amended) The svstem according to claim 7, wherein said client is battery operated and said <u>initial</u> default time period are increased more quickly as said battery life is depleted to thereby reduce battery consumption while determining said predetermined time-out criterion.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein said client is a wireless device and at least a portion of said link includes a wireless connection from said wireless device to the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

loading a time-out period into a first electronic device of an initial default value;

establishing a connection from said first electronic device to a second electronic device via a physical link that includes an equipment for terminating said connection if said connection remains idle for a <u>predetermined</u> ~~predefined~~ timeout period;

sending keep-alive signals from said first electronic device to ~~the~~ said second electronic device via said equipment according to said time-out period;

increasing said time-out period and repeating said sending step if said time-out period does not cause said connection to be terminated by said equipment;

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repeating said increasing step until said connection is terminated by said equipment in order to determine said predetermined time-out period of said equipment;

adjusting said time-out period to a value less than and closest to said predetermined time-out period of said equipment; and thereafter

sending said keep-alive signals using said adjusted time-out period.

11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said adjusting step is performed by iteratively decreasing said determined predetermined time-out period until said connection is no longer terminated by said equipment.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said connection carries an HTTP web-page requested by said first electronic device of said second electronic device and said keep-alive signal is a no-op signal.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said equipment is a NAT router.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said first electronic device is a client, said second device is a web-server and at least a portion of said link includes the Internet.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said first electronic device is battery operated and said increasing step is based on larger intervals when said battery life is approaching depletion.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said first electronic device is a wireless device and at least a portion of said link includes a wireless connection from said wireless device to the Internet.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a set of programming instructions, when executed by a first electronic device, for performing a method comprising the steps of:

loading a time-out period into said first electronic device of an initial default value;

establishing a connection from said first electronic device to a second electronic device via a physical link that includes an equipment for terminating said connection if said connection remains idle for a predetermined predefined time-out period;

sending keep-alive signals from said first electronic device to said second electronic device according to said time-out period;

increasing said <u>predetermined</u> time-out period and repeating said sending step if said time-out period does not cause said connection to be terminated by said equipment; and,

repeating said increasing step until said connection is terminated by said equipment in order to determine said pre-determined time-out period of said equipment;

adjusting said time-out period to a value less than and closest to said predetermined time-out period of said equipment; and thereafter

sending said keep-alive signals using said adjusted time-out period.